

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-19 and 21-25 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1, 2, 20, and 26-31 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 3, 6, 8-18, and 21-25 having been amended, by way of the present response.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 17, 19-21, and 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,071,795 to Dobbing et al. (Dobbing) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,123,731 to Gordon further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,415,635 to Wilsdorf et al. (Wilsdorf); and Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbing in view of Gordon further in view of Wilsdorf, and further in view of Japanese Publication No. 2-181313 to Onuma.

Initially, Applicant expresses thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 14 and 22-24 recite allowable subject matter, such that the claims, although having been objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicant has so-rewritten Claims 14 and 22-24. Applicant has further amended Claims 3, 6, 12, 13, 15-18, 21, and 25 to depend from Claim 24. Claims 4, 5, 7-11, 14, and 19 ultimately depend from independent Claim 24. Thus, in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of Claims 3-19 and 21-25.

As stated above Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 17, 19-21, and 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbing in view of Gordon further in view of Wilsdorf. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobbing in view of Gordon further in view of Wilsdorf, and further in view of Onuma. Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections have been overcome by the cancellation of

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Claims 1, 2, 20, and 26-31 without prejudice or disclaimer, and by the above-discussed amendments of the dependency of the claims.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 3-19 and 21-25 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

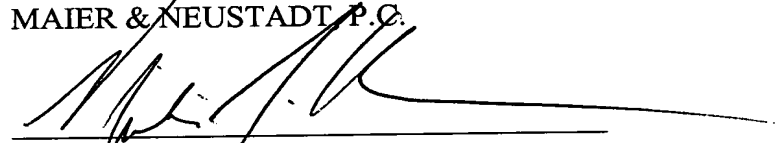
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Respectfully submitted,

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